

***Remarks***

Claims 1 and 3-5 have been canceled. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 2, 6-8 are pending in the application, with claim 2 being the independent claim. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.


***Conclusion***

Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

  
Jorge A. Goldstein  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 29,021

Date: 10/27/00  
1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600